

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02637 101645Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 IO-13 H-01 INR-10 PM-05
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-----071627 110109Z /14-S

R 101612Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3623
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2637

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MO, SG
SUBJECT: SENGHOR ASKS FOR REVERSAL OF USG MORROCCAN ARMS SALE
DECISION DURING MEETING WITH ANDREW YOUNG

REF: DAKAR 2076 (NOTAL)

1. DURING ONE HOUR MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG
APRIL 7, PRESIDENT SENGHOR MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR USG TO
REVERSE DECISION NOT TO SELL COUNTER-INSURGENCY ARMS TO
MOROCCO FOR USE IN WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT. SENGHOR ARGUED
THAT NEGATIVE DECISION GIVES SIGNAL THAT USG DOES NOT WISH
TO GIVE ITS FRIENDS IN AFRICA THE MEANS TO DEFEND AGAINST
SOVIET AGGRESSION CARRIED OUT THROUGH ALGERIAN, LIBYAN
AND CUBAN SURROGATES. HE ALSO WENT THROUGH HIS STANDARD
LITANY ABOUT THE WESTERN SAHARAN CONFLICT. IT IS NOT A
CONFLICT CONCERNED WITH SELF-DETERMINATION OR NATIONAL
LIBERATION, BUT A CONFLICT BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO.
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 02637 101645Z

ALGERIA IS TRYING TO DESTABILIZE AND OUTFLANK MOROCCO
AND OVERTHROW KING HASSAN. ALGERIA ALSO WANTS TO
CREATE PUPPET REGIMES IN THE NORTHERN SAHEL BY
MANIPULATING THE TOUAREG PEOPLES. ALGERIA INSISTED ON
ABSORBING THE TRIBES OF SOUTHERN ALGERIA AT INDEPENDENCE
WITHOUT A SELF-DETERMINATION REFERENDUM. THE SAME
CRITERIA SHOULD BE APPLIED TO THE WESTERN SAHARA. THE

USG SHOULD VIEW THE PROBLEM AS AN IMPORTANT STRATEGIC
ISSUE RATHER THAN A REGIONAL CONFLICT OF LITTLE
IMPORTANCE.

2. COMMENT: SENGHOR REMAINS CONSISTENT ON THE WESTERN
SAHARAN ISSUE. VISIT OF AMB. YOUNG WAS FIRST OPPORTUNITY
SENGHOR HAD TO EXPOSE HIS MAJOR CONCERNS TO A US CABINET
LEVEL OFFICIAL. IT IS CLEAR HE WILL STRESS THE SAME
POLITICAL THEME IN WASHINGTON IN JUNE.
COHEN

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